

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a method for moving charged particles through a medium in a movement area comprising a trench of capillary dimensions using an electrical field with spaced apart electrodes to produce said field, the improvement comprising:
  - 5 supporting said medium with an organic polymer substrate having a substantially uncharged surface.
2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said organic polymer is
- 10 polymethylmethacrylate, polycarbonate, polyethylene terephthalate or polystyrene and said organic polymer is optionally supported on glass.
3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein said charged particles are separated during said moving into a plurality of components.
- 15 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said charged particles are separated during said moving into a plurality of components.
5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said medium is a polymer gel.
- 20 6. In a method for moving charged particles through a medium in a movement area comprising a trench of capillary dimensions using an electrical field with spaced apart electrodes to produce said field, the improvement comprising:
  - supporting said medium with a polymethylmethacrylate card.
- 25 7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein said capillary dimensions are an inner diameter of from 25 to 100 $\mu$ .
8. A method according to Claim 6, wherein said electrical field is created by a
- 30 plurality of electrodes at opposite ends of said trench and along said trench.
9. A device for moving charged particles through a medium employing an electrical field, said device comprising:

an organic polymer solid substrate having an upper surface, wherein said upper surface of said organic polymer is substantially uncharged;

a main trench of capillary dimensions in said substrate having opposite ends;

5 a pair of electrodes, with one electrode proximal to one end of said trench and the other electrode proximal to the other end of said trench;

means for connecting said electrodes to a source of electricity; and  
means for introducing and removing liquid from said trench.

10 10. A device according to Claim 9 wherein said organic polymer is polymethylmethacrylate, polycarbonate, polyethylene terephthalate or polystyrene and said organic polymer is optionally supported on glass.

11. A device according to Claim 10, wherein said capillary dimensions are a  
15 diameter of from 25 to 100 $\mu$ .

12. A device for moving charged particles through a medium employing an electrical field, said device comprising:

an organic polymer solid substrate having an upper surface, wherein said  
20 upper surface of said organic polymer is substantially uncharged;  
a main trench in said substrate extending downward from said upper surface, having opposite ends, said trench having a depth of about 5 to 25 $\mu$  and extending across said substrate;

25 a pair of electrodes, with one electrode proximal to one end of said trench and the other electrode proximal to the other end of said trench;  
means for connecting said electrodes to a source of electricity; and  
ports for liquid transfer proximal to each end of said trench for liquid transport or a reservoir at each end of said trench.

30 13. A device according to Claim 12, wherein said organic polymer substrate is polymethylmethacrylate.

14. A device according to Claim 12, wherein said trench includes a gel for gel electrophoresis.

15. A device according to Claim 12, further comprising:

- 5 at least one lateral branch trench crossing said main trench; and at least one additional pair of electrodes, each additional pair proximal to opposite ends of each of said lateral branch trenches; and  
means for connecting each of said additional pairs of electrodes to a source of electricity.

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16. A device according to Claim 15, further comprising:

an electronic computer for controlling the electricity delivered to each of said electrodes connected to said electrode connecting means.

- 15 17. A device for moving charged particles through a medium employing an electrical field, said device comprising:  
a polymethylmethacrylate card having an upper surface, wherein said upper surface of said substrate is substantially uncharged;  
a main trench in said substrate extending downward from said upper 20 surface, having opposite ends, said trench having capillary dimensions and extending across said substrate;  
a pair of electrodes, with one electrode proximal to one end of said trench and the other electrode proximal to the other end of said trench;  
at least one lateral branch trench crossing said main trench; and at least 25 one additional pair of electrodes, each additional pair proximal to opposite ends of each of said lateral branch trenches;  
means for connecting said electrodes to a source of electricity; and  
ports for liquid transfer proximal to each end of said trench and each said lateral branch for liquid transport or a reservoir proximal to each end of said 30 trench and each said lateral branch..

18. A device according to Claim 17, said device further comprising:

an electronic computer for controlling the electricity delivered to each of said electrodes connected to said electrode connecting means.

19. A device according to Claim 17, wherein said main trench contains a gel electrophoresis medium.
20. A device according to Claim 19, wherein said gel electrophoresis medium is polyacrylamide.
- 10 21. In a capillary electrophoresis device comprising a capillary and electrodes proximal to opposite ends of said capillary, the improvement which comprises:  
a capillary of polymethylmethacrylate.

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